



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Seattle District

Public Notice

Navigation Section
PO Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755
ATTN: Hiram Arden (OD-TS-NS)

Notice Date: July 28, 2006
Expiration Date: August 26, 2006
Reference: CENWS-OD-TS-NS-25

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SEATTLE DISTRICT FISCAL YEARS 2007
THROUGH 2011 MAINTENANCE DREDGING AND DISPOSAL, GRAYS HARBOR AND
CHEHALIS RIVER FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECT, WASHINGTON

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) plans to continue routine dredging and disposal activities associated with maintenance of the Grays Harbor and Chehalis River Federal navigation channel. The maintenance program for fiscal years 2007 through 2011 is described below, and the location of the proposed dredging and disposal sites are shown on the attached plans. The purpose of this Public Notice is to solicit comments from interested persons, groups and agencies.

PURPOSE AND PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The Port of Grays Harbor utilizes the Federally authorized navigation channel to provide sea-going vessels with commercial access to the cities of Aberdeen, Hoquiam, and Cosmopolis. Without annual maintenance dredging, shoaling would lead to a shallower channel that would reduce the ability of large ships to enter and leave Grays Harbor safely. The purpose of channel maintenance dredging is to maintain the efficiency and safety of deep-draft water transportation in Grays Harbor.

AUTHORITY

The Grays Harbor and Chehalis River Project and maintenance dredging by the Department of the Army were authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1945, the Act of September 3, 1954 (House Document 412, 83rd Congress, 2nd Session), and the Water Resources Development Act of November 17, 1986 (Public Law 662).

This public notice is being issued in accordance with rules and regulations published as 33 CFR 335 "Operation and Maintenance of Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Project Involving the Discharge of Dredge or Fill Material into Waters of the United States and Ocean Waters"; 33 CFR 336 "Factors to be Considered in Evaluation of Army Corps of Engineers Dredging Projects Involving the Discharge of Dredged Material into Waters of the United States and Ocean Waters"; 33 CFR 337 "Practice and Procedure"; and 33 CFR 338 "Other Corps Activities Involving the Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material into Waters of the United States." The locations of the proposed dredging and disposal sites are shown on the attached drawings.

The proposed maintenance dredging and disposal activities will be reviewed in accordance with Section 313 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1323, 86 Stat. 816); Section 404 of the same act (33 U.S.C. 1344); the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 14560 (1) and (2), 86 Stat. 1280), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347); and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 668a-668cc-6, 87 Stat. 884).

FEDERAL MAINTENANCE DREDGING

The proposed work continues annual maintenance dredging (Public Notice CENWS-OD-TS-NS-12 dated February 7, 2001) by clamshell and hopper dredges of an estimated 2,500,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediment annually from the deep draft Grays Harbor and Chehalis River navigation project. Placement of the resulting material will be in existing approved open water disposal sites, nearshore nourishment sites, and the direct beach nourishment site. Table 1 that follows contains the quantity of material expected to be removed by reach, dredge type, depth, disposal area, and planned work periods.

NOTE: Ancillary, Non-Federal clamshell maintenance dredging is performed annually by the Port of Grays Harbor at their Port Terminals under separate individual Corps permits. Mr. Mike Johnson, Port Contract Administrator (360) 533-9518 is a suggested point of contact regarding Port maintenance activities.

MAINTENANCE MATERIAL BENEFICIAL USE/DISPOSAL

The proposed work includes continued nourishment of the nearshore areas in Half Moon Bay and at South Beach using dredged sand from the outer harbor. Beneficial use is the preferred method of disposal to ensure the Point Chehalis revetment extension remains buried, and to promote a stable sandy beach profile in Half Moon Bay. Direct beach nourishment on the eastern shore of Half Moon Bay will also take place. This sand placement will be confined to the area above +9 feet above mean lower low water, and will be conducted when the capacity of the direct beach nourishment site is depleted to such an extent that it is cost-efficient to contract for dredging and transportation via a specialty dredge with pump-off capabilities, vice the Government hopper dredge that is customarily used. The Half Moon Bay nearshore site can only be used if the depth is sufficient to allow a bottom dump barge or hopper dredge to enter the Bay for safe positioning and placement of material. The balance of the maintenance dredge material will be disposed at the Point Chehalis, South Jetty, or Southwest (3.9 Mile) Open Water Disposal Sites.

The designated dispersive dredge material disposal sites at Grays Harbor are as follows:

1. Point Chehalis. The Point Chehalis site is an estuarine site located inside the mouth of Grays Harbor adjacent to the Entrance Reach of the Federal navigation channel off Point Chehalis. The 2,000-foot by 5,000-foot rectangular shaped site has water depths exceeding 50 feet.
2. South Jetty. The South Jetty Site is an estuarine site located inside the mouth of Grays Harbor adjacent to the Entrance Reach of the Federal navigation channel along side the exposed portion of the South Jetty. The 800-foot by 3,000-foot rectangular shaped site has varied water depths to exceeding 50 feet.
3. Southwest (3.9 Mile). The Southwest (3.9 Mile) site is an ocean site located within the southwest navigation lane leading to the entrance to Grays Harbor and is 3.9 nautical miles southwest of the harbor entrance. The site is shaped like a parallelogram and has an area of

1.66 statute square miles (1.25 square nautical miles). The short sides of the site are approximately 6,000 feet long and the long sides, 8,000 feet long. The shoreward edge of the site lies along the 90 foot depth contour and approximately one third of the site is deeper than the 120 foot contour. This site will be used only when the South Beach beneficial use site is not available.

Table 1. FY07-11 Maintenance Dredging Program by Reach

REACH	ESTIMATED VOLUME (CY)	DREDGE TYPE	CHANNEL DIMENSIONS ¹	DISPOSAL AREA(S)	WORK SCHEDULE
S. Aberdeen	55,000 annually	clamshell	-32' MLLW 200-300' wide	South Jetty or Point Chehalis ²	16 July to 14 Feb
<i>Elliott Slough Turning Basin</i>	60,000 biennially	clamshell	-32' MLLW 350-550' wide	South Jetty or Point Chehalis ²	16 July to 14 Feb
Cow Point	750,000 annually	clamshell	-36' MLLW 350-550' wide	South Jetty or Point Chehalis ²	16 July to 14 Feb
<i>Cow Point Turning Basin</i>	200,000 annually	clamshell	-36' MLLW 350-950' wide	South Jetty or Point Chehalis ²	16 July to 14 Feb
Hoquiam	150,000 annually	clamshell	-36' MLLW 350' wide	South Jetty or Point Chehalis ²	16 July to 14 Feb
North Channel	150,000 annually	clamshell	-36' MLLW 350' wide	Point Chehalis	August to 14 Feb
Inner Crossover	200,000 annually	clamshell	-36' MLLW 350-450' wide	Point Chehalis	August to 14 Feb
Outer Crossover	200,000 annually	hopper ³	-36' MLLW 350' wide	Point Chehalis	April and May
South Reach	400,000 annually	hopper ³	-36' MLLW 350-450' wide	Point Chehalis or Half Moon Bay	April to June
Entrance/ Point Chehalis	400,000 annually	hopper	-40' to -46' MLLW 600-900' wide	South Jetty or Half Moon Bay or Point Chehalis	April and May
Bar Channel	250,000 as needed	hopper	-46' MLLW 900' wide	South Beach or South Jetty or 3.9 mile	April and May

Notes:

¹ Depths shown are authorized depths and do not include 2' advanced maintenance or 2' overdepth tolerance. Exceptions: South Aberdeen Reach has 0' advance maintenance and 1' overdepth tolerance. Elliott Slough Turning Basin has 3' advance maintenance for half of the channel (inside bend). Widths shown are those of the channel bottom, and do not include extra width at channel bends. The channel station 795+00 delineates the line between the outer and inner harbor channel reaches (as shown on Figure 2.)

² Adverse weather/wave relief site.

³ Clamshell required after May 31 (Outer Crossover) and June 30 (South Reach)

DREDGED DISPOSAL ANALYSIS

The proposed dredged material has been tested according to the “Dredged Material Evaluation Procedures and Disposal Site Management Manual, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay, Washington,” dated June 1995. These evaluation procedures were compiled by the regulatory agencies which have jurisdiction over dredged material disposal in open-water sites associated with Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay. Dredged material evaluations include both chemical and biological testing. Based on continuing biennial sediment sampling and testing in the Grays Harbor Navigation Channel, all dredged material from annual channel maintenance dredging has been approved for unconfined, open water disposal. No testing is required for the outer harbor reaches (South Reach and to the west), based on exclusionary criteria specified under either Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Resources and Sanctuaries Act; however, periodic grain size analysis is performed to assure compliance with exclusionary criteria. All sediment testing data are available at the Corps Dredge Material Management Office.

MITIGATION

During the formulation of the existing maintenance dredging program, much care was taken to reduce environmental impacts. Several impact avoidance, minimization, and compensation measures have been incorporated into the maintenance program, including:

1. To avoid impacts to bull trout and out-migrating juvenile salmon, the Corps does not dredge the South Aberdeen Reach, Cow Point Reach, Hoquiam Reach, and turning basins between February 15 and July 15.
2. To reduce entrainment of fish, shrimp, and crabs, the inner harbor reaches are dredged using a clamshell dredge.
3. To reduce entrainment of Dungeness crabs, no hopper dredging occurs in outer harbor reaches during periods of peak crab abundance.
4. Water quality monitoring occurs during inner harbor dredging when flow of the Chehalis River drops below 1,000 cubic feet per second at Hoquiam, as reported by the U.S. Geological Survey. The Corps notifies Ecology if dissolved oxygen (DO) levels fall below 5 mg/L. Dredging is ceased immediately if DO measurements fall below 4 mg/L.
5. To avoid significant impacts to Dungeness crab and marine fishes, trawl surveys occur in the Half Moon Bay nearshore disposal site prior to any disposal activities. This site is not used if high densities of crabs or commercially important fish species are found.
6. Disposal at the Half Moon Bay nearshore disposal site and the South Beach disposal site is coordinated with commercial crab fisherman to reduce the potential for damage to crab pots.
7. Disposal at the Half Moon Bay direct beach nourishment site is restricted to above +9' MLLW (the mean higher high water line at this location), pursuant to the *Point Chehalis Revetment Extension Mitigation Agreement*.
8. To compensate for the loss of Dungeness crabs to the commercial fishery, the Corps places oyster shell on intertidal mudflats in order to improve survival rates for young-of-the-year crabs.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires assessment of potential impacts to listed and proposed species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries

Service have identified several Federally listed species which may occur in the project vicinity, including: Coastal/Puget Sound bull trout and their critical habitat (*Salvelinus confluentus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus*), Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrius nivosus*) and their critical habitat, brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), Southern resident killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), Southern Green Sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*).

The Corps is currently evaluating potential impacts of the proposed action to the listed species. A preliminary determination has been made that the proposed work may affect several species. Informal consultation under Section 7 of the Act is therefore required.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

The District Engineer has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties:

Since the proposed dredging and disposal activities are confined to the removal of recently deposited sediments within the previously dredged channel width and depth boundaries or placement of material within existing disposal sites, little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge on an undisturbed historic property.

The District Engineer invites responses to this Public Notice from Federal, State and local agencies, historical and archeological societies, Indian Tribes and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

PUBLIC HEARING

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION

The decision to allow continued dredge material disposal at the existing sites will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs safety, food production and, in general, the needs, and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the effects of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to allow continued maintenance dredging and disposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above.

The proposed discharge will be evaluated for compliance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

ADDITIONAL EVALUATION

The State of Washington is reviewing this work for compliance with the applicable State and Federal water quality standards pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps has made a determination that the proposed work is consistent to the maximum practicable extent with the State of Washington Coastal Zone Management Program.

A draft environmental assessment (EA), tiered from previous Grays Harbor Environmental Impact Statements and EAs, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft EA's public comment period is concurrent with the comment period for this notice. The draft EA will be available at the Timberland Regional Library branches in Aberdeen, Hoquiam, and Westport as well as the Ocean Shores Library. The draft EA is also available on the Seattle District's web site, <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil> (follow links to Environmental Resources Section, Environmental Documents page).

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD

Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the public interest to allow continued dredge material disposal. All email comments should be sent to Hiram.T.Arden@usace.army.mil. Conventional mail comments should be sent to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Navigation Section, P.O. Box 3755, Seattle, WA 98124-3755. All comments must reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration. Telephone inquiries should be directed to Hiram Arden, Project Manager, at (206) 764-3401.

Hiram Arden
Project Manager
Navigation Section



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Notice of Application for
Water Quality Certification
and for
Certification of Consistency with the
Washington Coastal Zone Management Program

Date: July 28, 2006

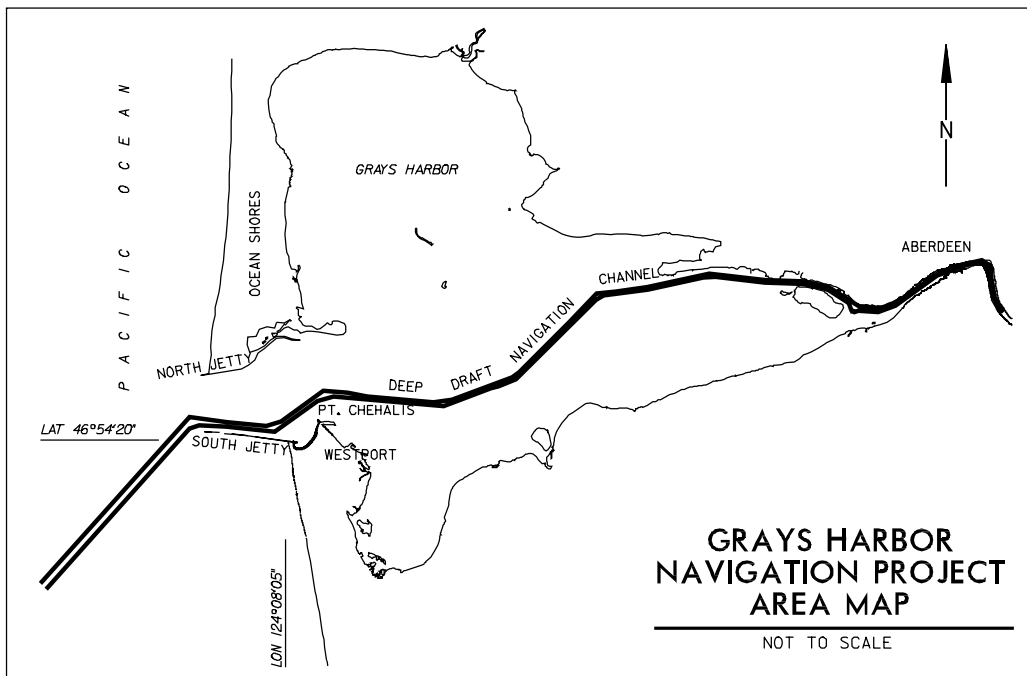
Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. CENWS-OD-TS-NS-25 will comply with the Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Act, and with applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 307© of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451), to certify that the above referenced project will comply with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to the project on either or both (1) compliance with water pollution control laws or (2) the project's compliance or consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the above publication date to:

Federal Permit Coordinator
Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

GRAYS
HARBOR
PROJECT



HORIZONTAL DATUM: NAD 83

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SEATTLE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

WESTPORT, WA & VICINITY
GRAYS HARBOR DREDGING/DISPOSAL

VICINITY AND AREA MAP

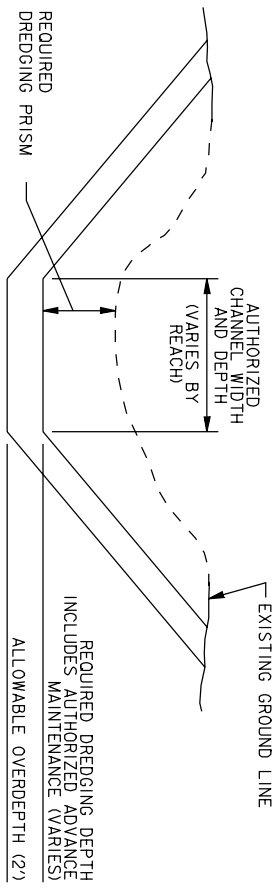
DATE:

PUBLIC NOTICE:

7 JULY 2006

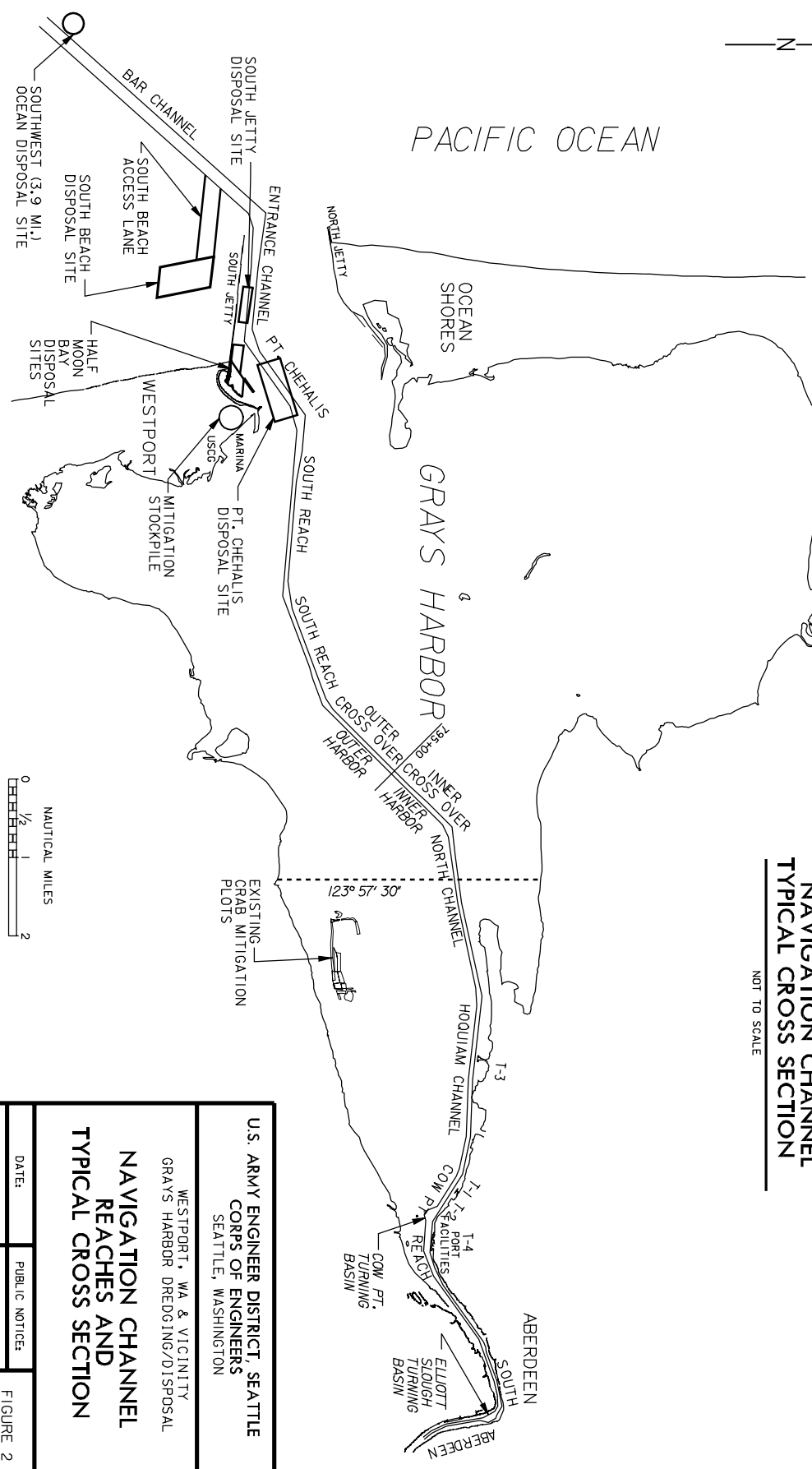
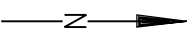
CENWS-OD-TS-NS-25

FIGURE I



NAVIGATION CHANNEL TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

NOT TO SCALE

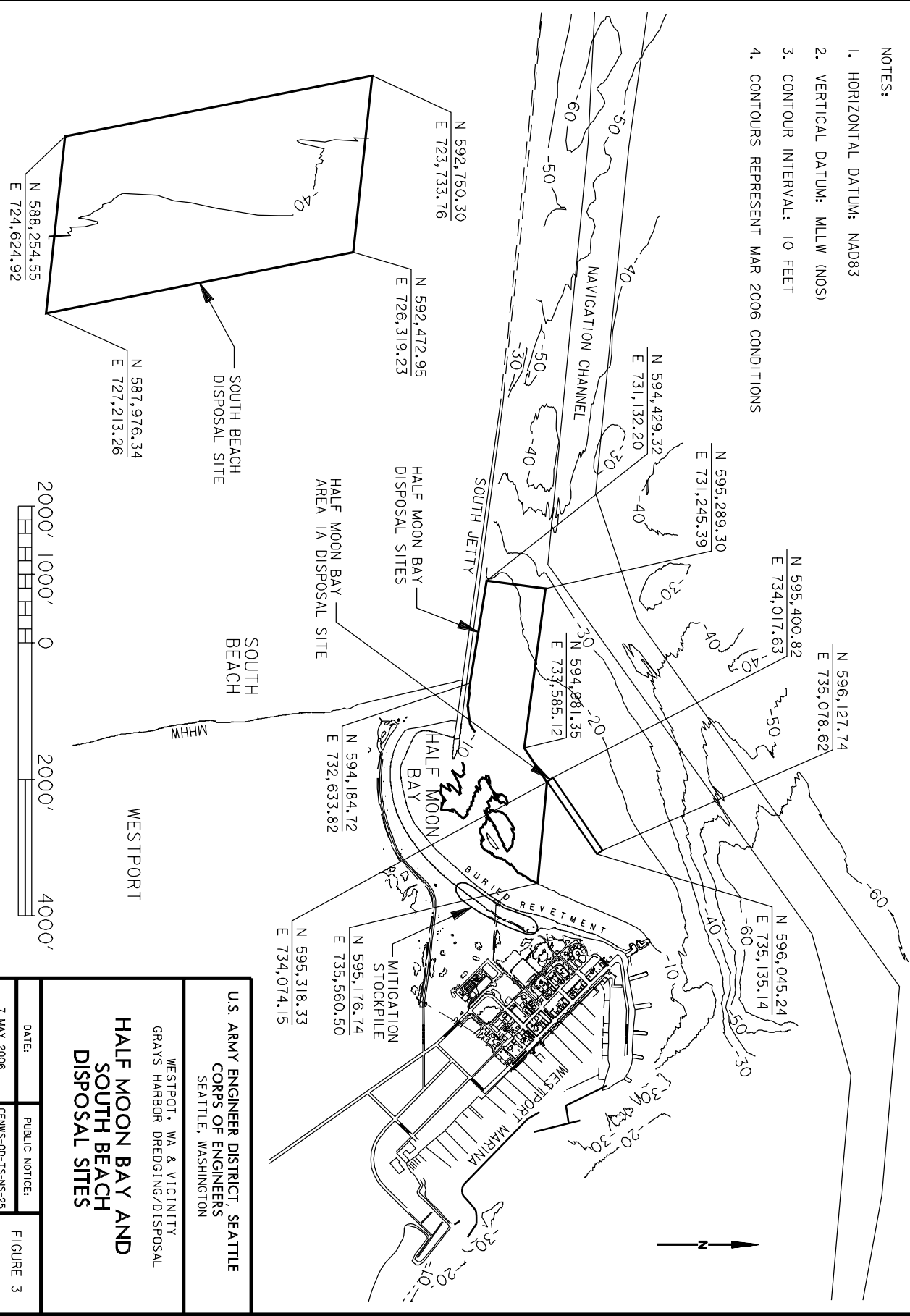


U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SEATTLE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

WESTPORT, WA & VICINITY
GRAYS HARBOR DREDGING/DISPOSAL
NAVIGATION CHANNEL
REACHES AND
TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

DATE:	PUBLIC NOTICE:	FIGURE 2
7 MAY 2006	CEWWS-00-TS-NS-25	

- NOTES:
1. HORIZONTAL DATUM: NAD83
 2. VERTICAL DATUM: MLLW (NOS)
 3. CONTOUR INTERVAL: 10 FEET
 4. CONTOURS REPRESENT MAR 2006 CONDITIONS



U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SEATTLE
 CORPS OF ENGINEERS
 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

WESTPORT, WA & VICINITY
 GRAYS HARBOR DREDGING/DISPOSAL
 SOUTH BEACH AND
 HALF MOON BAY DISPOSAL SITES

DATE:	PUBLIC NOTICE:	FIGURE 3
7 MAY 2006	CEHWS-00-TS-NS-25	